

Your business review report

Business Information

Name of BDBC advisor:	Joe Swarbrick
Dates of visit:	06/08/2026
Business name	Cornerstone Nurseries
Contact:	Cheryl Standing
Address:	Hart House, Priestley Rd, Basingstoke RG24 9PU
Nature of business:	Childcare nursery
Number of employees:	68
Premises type and tenure:	• Classrooms, offices and outdoor space • Owned
EPC rating	B
EPC report	Energy performance certificate (EPC) recommendation report
Key priorities and areas of concern prior to review	Part of Better Business for Good and looking for the next step. Doing as much as we can that it is in our control but want to make sure we are doing everything we can.



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Top Priority Actions

These are the top priorities selected from your Green Action Plan:

Action	Benefit	Timeframe
1. Consider upgrading the roof as this may be causing significant heat loss	Insulation can reduce heating and cooling costs by up to 40% while improving comfort, EPC ratings, and environmental sustainability for UK businesses	6 months +
2. Conduct a solar feasibility assessment. You could explore schemes such as Community energy .	For a 10kW system (10,000 kWh/year), small businesses can expect to see a 5–6 year payback period, and for a 20kw system this can be 4-5 years. Commercial Solar Panels in the UK: Guide (October 2025) 67% of SMEs who adopted sustainable practices like installing solar panels reported reduced costs	6 months +
3. Encourage parents to use re-usable nappies, wipes and sustainable creams.	Reduces single-use products being disposed and families can make long-term cost savings	Immediately



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Findings

Area

Findings

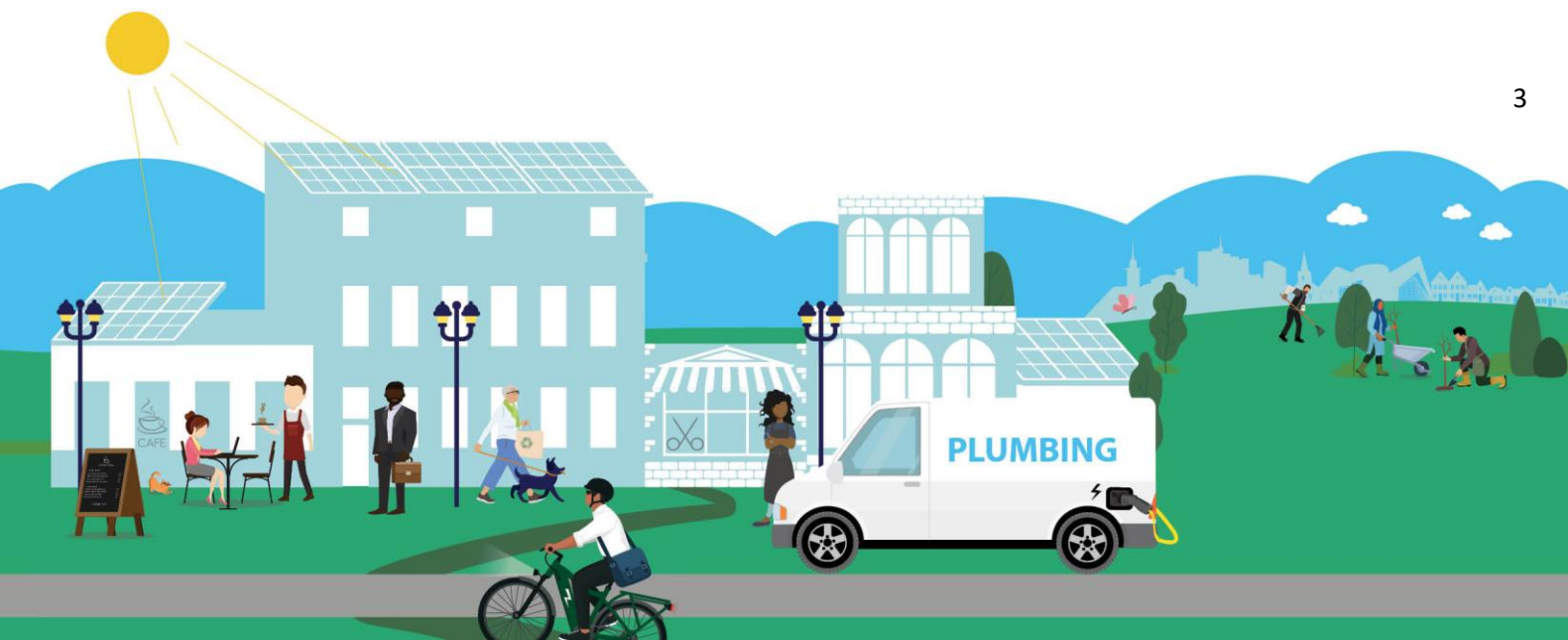


Energy Management

Good

You have a good foundation in place for managing energy, with some positive actions already supporting efficiency. With a more consistent and structured approach, there is potential to build on this and achieve further savings over time.

NOTES: You have good energy management practices: use of LED lighting, occupancy sensors in toilets, regular monitoring of energy bills, and a structured shutdown procedure to minimise unnecessary energy use. The heating and air-conditioning systems have also been updated in recent years. The building would benefit from improvements to its fabric, particularly the ageing flat roofs, walls and floors, and older metal-framed windows, which are likely contributing to heat loss and overheating in some areas. Opportunities such as smart plugs, improved heating controls for warmer upper floors, a green energy tariff, and exploring solar panels following roof improvements could further reduce energy costs and carbon emissions.



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Water Management

Strong

You are taking a proactive approach to managing water use, with effective steps already in place. Building on this, further targeted or strategic actions could help strengthen performance and support your wider sustainability objectives.

NOTES: Demonstrates strong water management by monitoring water usage regularly and checking for leaks, helping to identify anomalies and avoid unnecessary costs. Fixing the water butt will help to reduce usage further/



Waste and Recycling

Strong

You are taking a proactive approach to waste and recycling, with effective measures already in place. Building on this, further targeted actions—such as waste reduction initiatives or working with suppliers—could help strengthen performance and support your wider sustainability goals.

NOTES: The nursery has strong waste management practices in place, including segregated recycling, food waste collections, composting, and regular monitoring of waste streams. Staff also participate in waste reduction initiatives through Dale's dinners and encourage responsible behaviours. Areas for improvement include reducing single-use plastics, encouraging the use of reusable nappies and wipes where appropriate, and finding innovative ways to reuse shredded paper that cannot be recycled, such as composting, in mulch to suppress weeds or craft activities.



Supply Chain & Procurement

Strong

You are taking a proactive approach to supply chain and procurement, with sustainability already being considered in your decisions. Building on this, further targeted actions—such as deeper supplier engagement or more formalised criteria—could help strengthen performance and support your wider sustainability goals.

NOTES: Emphasis on sustainable procurement by sourcing products locally, purchasing in bulk where possible, and favouring suppliers with



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strong sustainability credentials. These measures help reduce transport emissions and support local businesses. A further opportunity would be to work with suppliers and parents to promote more reusable and environmentally friendly childcare products, particularly nappies and wipes.



Transport

Good

You have a good starting point in managing transport and travel, with some positive steps already in place. There is an opportunity to build on this by taking a more consistent approach and identifying further ways to improve efficiency and reduce environmental impact.

NOTES: The nursery supports sustainable travel through the provision of cycle parking and encouragement of walking and cycling to work. Staff use a mix of transport methods, helping to reduce reliance on single-occupancy car journeys. To build on this positive approach, the nursery could promote car sharing, or even better a Cycle to Work scheme.



Staff engagement

Strong

You are taking a proactive approach to staff engagement, with clear efforts already in place to involve employees in sustainability initiatives. Building on this, further structured or targeted actions could help strengthen engagement and embed sustainability more fully across the organisation.

NOTES: Staff engagement in sustainability is a clear strength, with a Sustainability Strategy in place, sustainability reminders displayed throughout the building, and participation in initiatives such as food waste reduction and Plastic Free July. The nursery has successfully embedded sustainability into daily operations.



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Governance and Compliance

Strong

You are taking a proactive approach to governance and compliance, with clear structures and processes already in place. Building on this, further refinement and integration into wider business strategy could help strengthen transparency, accountability and overall sustainability performance.

NOTES: The nursery demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainability through its Sustainability Strategy, regular leadership discussions on sustainability matters, and membership of Better Business for Good. Awareness of relevant environmental regulations is also evident.

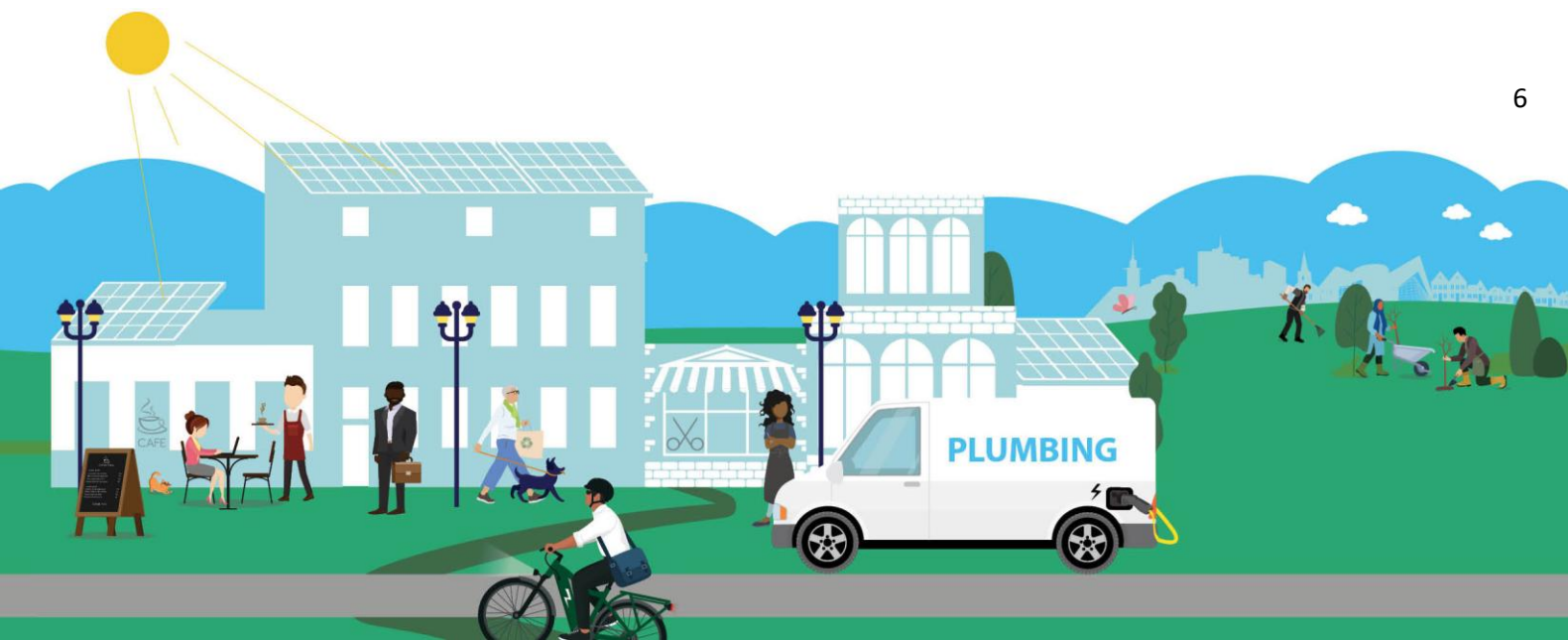
Your Green Action Plan

Your Green Action Plan is a simple tool to help your business plan, track and improve its environmental performance.

Along with this report we have attached a spreadsheet with your Green Action Plan that you can fill in to assign responsibilities among your staff, update status of actions and monitor progress.

For each **Area of Action** (e.g. Energy, Water, Waste), your plan

- **Sets a clear goal** – What you want to achieve (e.g. reduce energy use by 10%).
- **Assesses your status** – Where you are now.
- **Lists specific actions** – Practical steps you will take to meet the goal.
- **Assigns a timeframe** – Short (1–3 months), medium (3–6 months), or long-term (6+ months).
- **Defines how you'll measure progress** – e.g. utility bills, waste volumes, supplier data.



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What you should do:

- **Assign responsibilities** – Name the person or team accountable for each action.
- **Update status regularly** – Mark as “Not started”, “Ongoing” or “Completed”.

Tip: Start with some priority actions, review progress regularly, update the plan as you go.

Grants, tools and resources

Grants

Central government funds for businesses: [Finance and support for your business - GOV.UK](#). Use the filters to select your industry and location to see what grants might be available to you.

For certain industries, funding is available to help UK businesses become greener, This [Guidance page on Energy Demand Reduction](#) helps businesses to explore and find available funding and check if they are eligible, as requirements may vary for each type of fund.

Also keep an eye on our pages for **local business grants** within Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council website here: [Grant funding for businesses](#)

The **Clean Growth** network have an [online search tool](#) that can help you to find the latest grant funding opportunities depending on what do you want to fund, the size of your business and your location.

Business Climate Change Toolkit

We have **many resources and tips** linked on our Business Climate Change Toolkit, take a look here: [Business Climate Change toolkit](#). It includes things like



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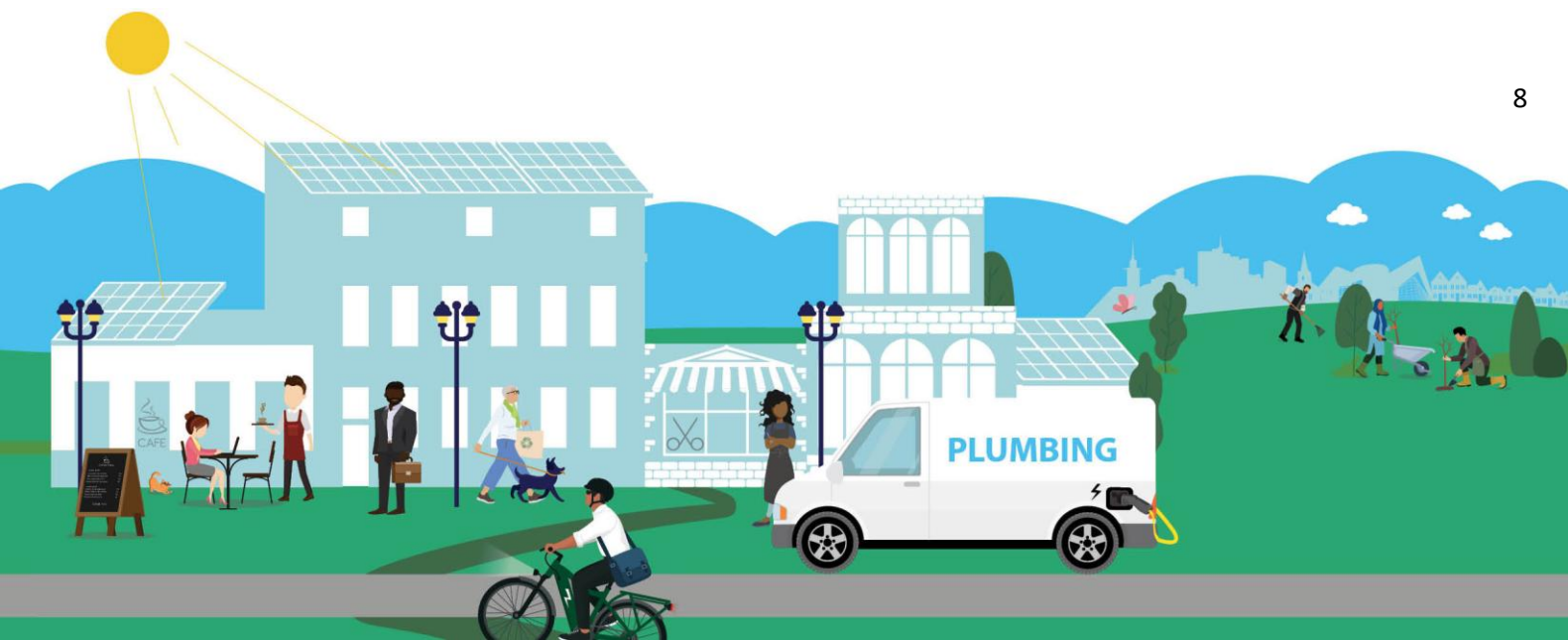
workplace charging schemes where businesses can get discounts on charge points, information on funding for **heat pumps and solar panels**, **free training** for employers and employees and **updates on regulations** that are emerging which will affect all SMEs.

Other tools & resources

For free tools and resources, the [Carbon Trust](#) is a great place to start for SMEs for your sustainability journey. Their [Transition Strategy & Delivery](#) pages introduce you to how to assess and measure your carbon footprint to develop your own strategy to take action and communicate progress. Additionally, they provide a large list of [guides, tools, reports and videos](#) specific to industries and sectors.

Hampshire County Council also have **information about Net Zero** and support for businesses to get there: [Green business growth | Business and economy | Hampshire County Council](#)

Modo's Energy Academy has a great series of free videos informing about the energy market which might impact your decision-making: [The Energy Academy | Modo Energy](#)



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Stay updated

Adopting more sustainable habits and making improvements in your business can significantly reduce your operating costs along with your environmental impact, enable you to address regulatory and reputational risks and identify new opportunities in the green economy.

Taking simple actions such as saving energy, reducing water waste, choosing local providers, minimising waste through recycling or promoting low-emission travel all contribute meaningfully.

Please note that this report and your green action plan are suggestions only. Your business' leaders and employees are best placed to assess and implement our recommendations in a way that fits your context. The Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Green Team welcomes your feedback on the process and report and looks forward to following up to see how your business's green journey continues.

Subscribe to our [business newsletter](#) (or scan the QR code in this page) to get regular updates on local business news, funding opportunities, government and council news, awards, events and networking opportunities.



SCAN ME

Business Surveys, Reports Green Action Plans are provided free of charge by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council through awarded funding. The Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Green Team are trained as energy advisors and retrofit advisors. The information contained within the reports and green action plans are only recommendations, and professional advice should be taken before undertaking any works.

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